WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The estimates of Birth as available from Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India for the latest four years are given below :

Year	Birth rate (per thousand population)
1981	33·9
1982	33·8
1983	33·7
1984*	33·8

(*Provisional)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government is seriously concerned over the high birth rate. The State Governments have been requested to give high priority to the Family Welfare programme and quicken the pace of its implementation so that the demographic goals set out in the 7th five year Plan are achieved.

Mayo Hospital Calcutta

1703. SHRI RAM KRISHNA MAZUMDER :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under consideration a proposal to convert Mayo hospital in Calcutta into a full fledged hospital for the medical treatment of the Central Government employees in Calcutta ; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee has been constituted to explore the feasibility of taking over of Mayo Hospital. An overall view will be taken after the committee submit its report.

Express-way between Ahmedabad and Baroda

1704. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in a press conference held on the 30th December, 1985 at Bombay, the Minister of State for Surface Transport indicate that Government had decided to construct and Express-way between Ahmedabad and Baroda at a cost of rupees 128 crores ;

(b) whether this express-way is likely to be completed during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) what are the other express-way projects in the country which are under consideration and what are the names, lengths and estimated cost of each of these express-ways ; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work of Ahmedabad Baroda Expressway included in the World Bank assistance programme is expected to commence during 1986-87 and is likely to be completed in 1991-92.

(c) None.

(d) Does not arise.

Declaration of State roads in Himachal Pradesh as National Highways

1705. SHRI MATI USHA MALHOTRA :
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1430 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1985 and state :

(a) whether the Pathankot-Mandi road is proposed to be included in